



**INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN-PERSON MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, October 23, 2023**

**ATTENDING:**

	<b>Delegate</b>		<b>Alternate</b>	
<b>Australia</b>	Tony Van der Staay	✓	Bruce Higgs	
<b>Eastern Region NA</b>	David Sanford	✓	Keith Osborne	
<b>Europe</b>	Richard McKenna		Tim Lawrance-Owen <sup>1</sup>	✓
<b>Japan</b>	Peter Waugh		Hiroaki Ohashi	
<b>New Zealand</b>	Antony Toledo	✓	Lisa Burton	
<b>Southern Region NA</b>	Laura Miller	✓	Brie Arthur	✓
<b>Southern Africa</b>	Jason Myburgh		Elsa du Toit	✓
<b>Western Region NA</b>	Jim McConnell	✓	Gayle Suttle	✓
<b>Regional Developmt</b>	Dharam Sharma			
<b>Staff</b>	Bob Geneve <sup>3</sup>	✓	Katie McDavid <sup>4</sup>	✓
<b>President; VP</b>	Tom Saunders <sup>2</sup>	✓	Elsa du Toit	✓
<sup>1</sup> Chairman	<sup>2</sup> Treasurer	<sup>3</sup> Intl Editor	<sup>4</sup> Intl Director	

**MINUTES**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order Tim Lawrance-Owen  
 Meeting was called to order at 8:49 AM by Tim Lawrance-Owen.

- II. Approval of Minutes Tim Lawrance-Owen  
 Motion to approve minutes from June 13, 2023 was made by Laura Miller and seconded by Tony Van der Staay; unanimously approved.

A discussion was held regarding the official gavel and whether we should continue to use it or keep it safe in storage as well as who would hold onto it. A decision was made that for the next few years, the Executive Director or Chairman will hold onto it. There are potential issues with it going into International countries as some will not allow any imported wood into the country, therefore, it will likely remain in storage for International Tours and only come out for US tours (this will be discussed before each International tour).

- III. Treasurer's Report Tom Saunders  
 The board reviewed the current income vs. expenses. Currently, the organization is \$19,876.49 in the positive. At this time in 2022, the organization was up \$14,660.43.

A discussion was held on the name change. A motion was passed to revisit the brand refresh with name change for 2024. Members raised many issues during the previous vote in 2020 that need to be discussed and decisions made to present the unified proposal in 2024. The Executive Director will work on summarizing the 2020 issues and results to bring back to the board. A committee to assist with the name change presentation was created with Brie Arthur, Tom Saunders, Jim McConnell, and Antony Toledo.

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*Executive Director to work with Name Change Committee for proposal*

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IV. Editor's Report

The International Editor reported that there are already 22 papers submitted for this year's Proceedings from Australia and New Zealand. Hopefully, this means we will have a full and complete Proceedings, similar to pre-covid numbers, once again.

It was noted that regions that have editors in place do a much better job at submitting papers for the regions than those without a specific person as editor.

V. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director presented new policies for review: Antitrust, Board Spending, Code of Ethics, and a Nonprofit Policy Against Harassment. A motion was presented to approve the policies as presented by Tony Van Der Staay and seconded by Laura Miller. It was unanimously approved.

Membership numbers from 2005 – 2023 were presented. Membership has declined 52% from 2005 to 2023. In the past ten years (2013 – 2023), membership has declined 24%. From 2022 to 2023, all regions increased membership numbers or were within four members of remaining the same as 2022 numbers. Total membership for 2023 was 1,170.

Student membership numbers are at 736 for 2023. Board members discussed student numbers and how to convert student members to paid members after graduation. There were comments about the lack of follow through with IPPS regions and students as emails frequently change after graduation and we lose contact with the students. IPPS also does not know how many of the student members are horticulture-related students or had to sign up for a horticulture class.

The Executive Director will look into setting up Google Analytics for students on the website.

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*Google Analytics for students on website*

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The Executive Director requested nominations for Chairman and potentially the Treasurer position for 2024. Tom Saunders was nominated as Chairman. Donna Fare's name was recommended as a potential Treasurer. Any additional nominations can be sent to the Executive Director by late November.

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*Board Members to send Chairman and/or Treasurer nominations to Executive Director by late November 2023*

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The Executive Director reminded everyone of the new website issue submission form. This will help the website team find and fix issues as quickly as possible. This form has been emailed in International Newsletters but is also listed under the FAQ section of the website.

A strategic planning committee was created with Brie Arthur, Gayle Suttle, and Antony Toledo. The board will also ask Bruce Higgs, David Cliffe, Donna Fare, Alan Jones, and Jill Reader to assist. The Executive Director will scan and email the previous strategic planning documents to allow the committee to compare previous strategic plans to the proposed strategic plan.

A request for all regions to send their respective strategic plans to the Executive Director by the December 2023 meeting was made.

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*Regions to send strategic planning documents from their regions to Executive Director by end of November 2023*

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A recommendation for the strategic plan was made for the Board to consider adopting a “tagline” for regions to follow that would allow the organization to promote that goal and tagline for the year.

A China representative reached out to the Executive Director a month ago regarding starting their potential IPPS region again. Questions were raised whether they would have enough interest and potential payment of dues. The Australian Region previously supported the potential China Region so discussions will start between International, Australia, and the potential China Region. There are currently eight Australian members who are from China.

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*Executive Director to facilitate discussions between China and Australia*

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VI. Closing Comments

Next Board Meeting: December 5, 2023 at 4:30 PM Eastern (\*\*note new time\*\*)

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.